

Bread & Puppet



HALLELUJAH



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Bread & Puppet Press,
Glover, Vermont

2011



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SEE THE WORLD





WHEN YOU
SOW SEEDS
ON IT

AND WHEN YOU
POUR WATER
ON IT

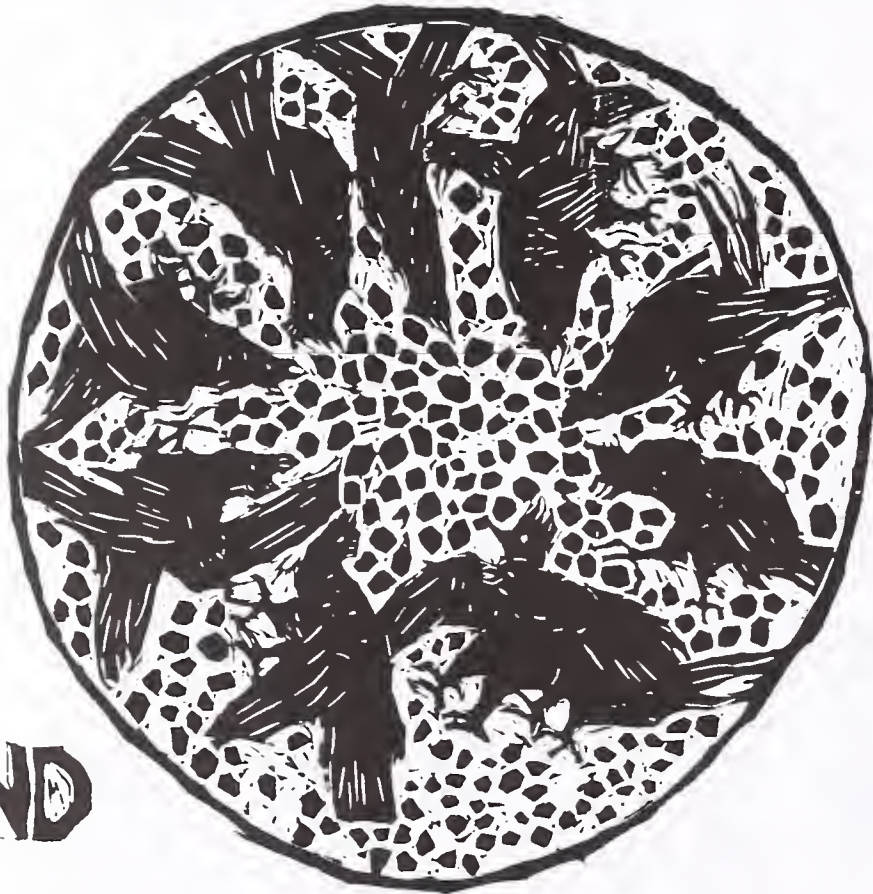




AND LET THE
SUN SHINE
ON IT

IT WILL
GROW





AND

THE BIRDS

WILL FEED ON IT



AND THE CHILDREN
WILL EAT IT



AND

THE

GRANDMAS
AND THE

GRANDPAS
SING HALLELULAH

BUT



WHEN YOU
PUT FIRE TO
THE WORLD



AND
WHEN YOU
POISON IT



THE WORLD

WILL CRY



**AND THE
CHILDREN
WILL DIE**

In 1971-72, when the Bread and Puppet Theater was in residence at Goddard College in Plainfield, Vermont, a number of political street-shows were produced for weekly performance in the community. The longest-lived of them is Hallelujah which is still played every year. It is a warning show consisting of one conditional sentence: if you do this and that, here are the consequences. A few people can do the show or it can expand to include scores more. Anyone who can blow a kazoo or hit a drum, attend a half-hour rehearsal and then follow some simple directions can participate.

After a tune-up and run-through of the first four syllables of Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus" punctuated by drum and cymbal, the narrator-conductor announces each picture as it is flipped over. In some performances the lines are repeated in different languages by a row of translators. Short scenes illustrate the words. The World is a masked woman in white who receives a pair of giant hands, a bowl of water and a cut-out bird; the sun shining is a fast and furious flag-twirling dance; the world growing is a little papier-mache figure pulled out of the conductor's top hat; and children eating is a real apple given to a real child in the audience. After the "BUT" drumming and warning shouts herald Uncle Fatso, a big mean caricature of the cigar-chewing politician and one of the company's oldest puppets, dating from the anti-slum-lord parades in Harlem in the mid-sixties. His detachable fist smashes the World and in the last scene she crumples to the ground.

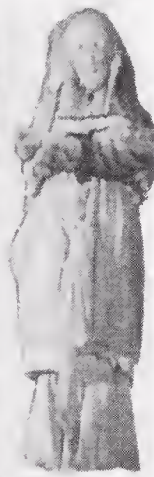
Hallelujah is performed at the annual Domestic Resurrection Circus in Glover, Vermont, the home of the Bread and Puppet Theater, and it has been presented in streets, parks and theaters in many villages and cities in the United States and Eastern and Western Europe.

Here are some of the many who have performed in Hallelujah over the years: narrator -- Bill Dalrymple, Neek Williams, Massimo Schuster, Amy Trompetter, George Konnoff and John Bell; the World - Sylvie Viaut, Barbara Leber, Tamara Schumann, Sara Peattie and Cate Peck; Uncle Fatso and his Fist - Jules Rabin, Mark Dannenhauer, Michael Romanyshyn, Peter Hamburger, David Tucker and Rufus Chaffee. In the band Trudi Cohen has played many instruments including toy piano, Carlene Fernandez also toy piano, Joanne Schultz bass drum, Howie Cantor electric bass, Karl Schwartz accordion, Ron Kelley alto sax, Ralph Denzer trumpet, Burt Porter banjo, Paul Zaloom snare drum, Linda Elbow xylophone, Ken Eisenbraun and Genevieve Yeuillaz cymbals, and Barney Carlson nose-flute.

In recent years (the 1990's and 2000's), other puppeteers have taken on the main roles in Hallelujah; narrators Chuck Meese, Justin Lander, Linda Elbow; the World; Clare Dolan, Nabila Schwab, Alicia Gerstein, Rose Friedman; Uncle Fatso; Brad Harley, Clare Dolan, Nabila Schwab, Dave Bailey, Jig Gresser, Lili Lamberta, and Susie Perkins. Our sincere apologies to those left out.

Performances in different languages started in the 1980's when Hallelujah toured Europe, and this practice continues every time the show is done. In 2011, every Sunday in July and August, Hallelujah was the final act of the Pageant, and there were as many as fourteen translators, including internes, from India, Sri Lanka, Turkey, Israel, Iraq, the Phillipines, Brazil, and Eastern and Western Europe.

The masonite-cuts from which the pictures and words were made were carved by Peter Schumann and printed by members of the company on pieces of fabric ca. 4 by 6 feet. The photos of the masonite-cuts were made by Joan Chaffee and Karl Bissinger and the photos of the performances were made by Antonio Sferlazzo, Joan Chaffee, Verena Eggmann, Joachim Stockert and E. Gorney. This booklet was put together by Elka Schumann in Glover and printed by Northlight Studio Press in Barre, Vermont, in November-December 1983 and reprinted, with some changes, by Silver Mountain Graphics in St. Johnsbury, Vermont, in October, 2011.





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